As parents begin to plan for their child’s entry into Kindergarten there are many factors to consider in making arrangements for this milestone. Seeing that your child is “eligible” for kindergarten based on his birth date is not the only consideration in determining if this is the best choice for your child.

Your child is changing daily and it is important that he or she is not pushed to satisfy parental expectations but can enjoy their individual developmental pace. Just as each flower changes from a bud to a bloom, so your children will bloom at their own rate. Included in the development process is not only such things as the recognition of the alphabet, but also consider if your child has the patience, fine motor skills, stamina, and emotional confidence necessary for a more structured, all day class.

This developmental rate is so individual that it is difficult to predict kindergarten readiness so many months prior to the beginning of school. It is important to remain observant of your own child and prayerfully consider how to nurture your beautiful “bloom”. Remaining flexible in your expectations will give the child confidence in who he or she is becoming.

With those considerations in mind here are some things that Colorado Springs Christian Elementary School has listed as a guide to Kindergarten Readiness:

- Identify upper and lower case letter
- Identify basic colors correctly
- The child is able to carry out 3 verbal directions after they are given by the teacher.
- Recognizes 2 of the following shapes (circle, triangle, square, or rectangle)
- Counts to 10 orally
- Identify which of 2 groups has more that the other and which has less
- Able to sit still for 10-15 minutes
- Sufficient maturity for kindergarten
- Initiative in expressing himself/herself verbally
- Child is pleasant
- The child is eager to work and takes initiative to do so
- Can write his/her name